departments for further detailed exploration work.

In addition, many Central Government and State Government Departments such as Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Departments are capable of carrying out such studies using remote sensing techniques.

Transfer of Helicopter units from the Air Force to the Army

2208. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to transfer some helicopter units from the Air Force to the Army; if so, what are the reasons therefor and what functions are likely to be assigned to them; and

(b) whether the Navy is also likely to have a sort of mini air force, if so, whether it is likely to be equipped with aircraft carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) The Air Observation Post helicopters, which Government has decided to integrate with the Army, have always been flown by Army Officers for purely Army tasks. Transfer of these helicopter units to the Army would streamline their operations and permit quicker reaction time during hostilities. The Air Observation Post helicopter units would continue to perform their present functions.

(b) The Navy is already equipped with aircraft carriers from which fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft are deployed. Naval assets also include rotary wing aircraft deployed from ships and land basis and fixed wing maritime reconnaissance aircraft based on the land.

Increase in drug peddling and addiction

2209. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) wheher any study is being made by Government to assess the alarming increase in drug peddling and addiction in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to stop this menace especially among college students; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to amend the Indian Narcotics Act to enforce strict vigilance and awarding of deterrent punishment to drug peddlars and drug users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A study of the drug abuse situation amongst students in four metropolitan cities and five other towns of the country was commissioned in 1985. The results of this study are still awaited. A variety of educational and preventive measures are being taken by the Ministry of Welfare to counteract the problem of drug abuse among the people including students.

(c) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotrophic Substances Act, 1985 was recently enacted and enforced w.e.f. 14-11-85. There is no proposal with the Government to amend the said Act at present. The Act provides for deterrent penalties for drug-trafficking/peddling.

Arrest without warrant of an officer of Punjab and Sind Bank of Chandigarh

2210. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on 7th June, 1986 one Mr. Labh Singh, an officer of Punjab and Sind Bank's Regional Office, Haryana, was